

# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

The BAY-DELTA MODELING FORUM - GUIDELINES FOR A PEER-REVIEW PROCESS (see Appendix A) outlines an Initial Review that includes

- written questions to model developers,
- test runs, and
- workshop discussions to review initial results.

The review process was initiated by a request for model documentation. Information was provided by the review participants in varying formats, and in a wide range of detail. In some cases, the documentation was not as current as the code. While this is natural and was anticipated, the documentation alone was not expected to provide the complete picture demanded in a peer-review context.

To facilitate familiarization with the candidate models, a number of schematic applications were defined. These are outlined in the following chapters. The objective was to provide a data base of comparable detail on all participant models. The following review is based principally on this data base, as a record of model performance and as a framework for interpretative discussions.

The single measure of model performance has been fidelity in representation of the physical processes. In earlier decades, model performance was often a compromise between computational resources and physical processes. Desktop computing power has now advanced beyond the stage where computational resources are a legitimate constraint on performance.

The anticipated written questions and workshop discussions were folded into the interpretative review process.